Sunscald

FACT SHEET

GREEN DROP Tree Care

What It Is:

Sunscald happens when the sun heats cold bark in the winter, especially from the south and southwest side of the tree. The trees tissue activates from dormancy in the warmth, then refreezes during the cold nighttime temperatures, causing the bark to peel, crack, and appear sunken in.

Sunscald also happens as a result of high UV and dry heat. The sunlight burns through the thin bark.

When branches are drooping in a downward direction, the tree is likely protecting itself against Sunscald.

Commonly affected trees include Maples, Lindens, and fruit trees.

Evergreen trees are less susceptible to Sunscald as the needles provide greater coverage, and absorb sunlight on the foliage, rather than the trunk.



Prevention:

- Plant smaller trees or shrubs in front of the main tree to protect the tree of concern.
- Identify trees with thin bark and don't plant them in areas with high sun exposure.
- Avoid pruning lower branches, as they provide shade for the trunk.
- Water your trees throughout fall and until the ground freezes. Hydrated trees are more resilient to winter stress and temperature changes.
- Generously apply mulch to retain moisture.

Insect/Disease

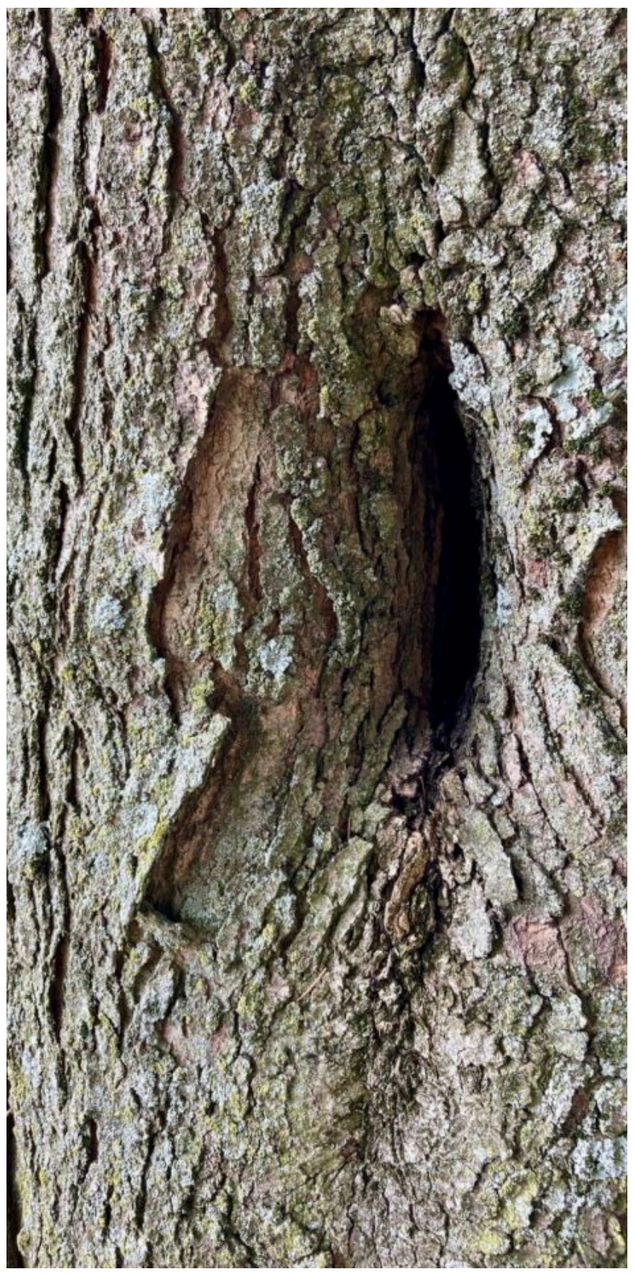
FACT SHEET

Tree Care

Maple Tree



Linden Tree



Apple Tree



Contact:

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